

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NWES

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AVACO TO HOLD PLANNING CONFERENCE

General objectives for the next 5 years of AVACO work will be determined at a planning conference to be held on April 26 and 27 at Ito-ya Hotel in Yugawara. Opportunities afforded by the new AVACO studio which is now in the process of construction and the NCC Centennial celebration will be among the items receiving attention.

CORRECTION ON BIKINI STATEMENT BY NCC

The statement on the H-Bomb tests at Bikini which was adopted by the International Affairs Commission of NCC was revised at the first meeting of the new Executive Committee before being sent abroad. The revised statement is as follows:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO ATOMIC ENERGY

Adopted by the Executive Committee meeting
of the
National Christian Council of Japan

The current test explosions of Hydrogen Bombs at Bikini Lagoon unfortunately gravely injured Japanese fishermen and caused and continue to cause enormous economic losses. They have dealt a severe blow both economic and psychological to the entire nation and give great apprehension with regard to the dreadful power of atomic energy and its catastrophic threat to the welfare of the entire world.

We therefore urge that all possible measures be taken to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity and we appeal to all American churches through the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America for redoubled efforts for the realization of international control of atomic energy and its use exclusively for peaceful purposes and the promotion of human welfare; and to that end we also solicit the cooperation of fellow Christians in all countries through the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

INVITE NEXT WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION TO JAPAN

Rev. Masatake Fujita who left for Europe last week to attend the World Council of Christian Education Convention in Germany took with him the invitation of the NCC to hold the next World Sunday School Convention in Japan. The convention will probably be held in 1957 or 58. The offer

has the backing of many prominent Japanese Christian laymen and businessmen.

LUTHERANS HELD YOUTH LEADERS CONFERENCE

Japan Lutherans held a national youth leaders conference at Itsukaichi on April 7-9 which was attended by about 25 Youth Committee chairman and members from the 6 districts in Japan. Plans for a national youth conference to be held this summer, and the NCC youth week which will be observed from May 23-30 were among the matters discussed.

DR. EARL ERB VISITS LUTHERAN WORK IN JAPAN

Dr. Earl Erb, general secretary of Foreign Missions for the United Lutheral Church in the USA and Miss Helen M. Shack, secretary of the Japan Committee of the Dept. of Foreign Missions arrived in Japan on April 7 for a month stay. One of their chief purposes in coming to Japan is to promote Lutheran unity here and they plan to visit every Lutheran Church in Japan before they return on May 10. They will also attend the Annual Meeting of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church to be held in Tokyo at the Seinenkan on May 5 & 6.

WCTU LAUNCHES DRIVE TO RAISE 70 MILLION YEN

The Japan WCTU has launched a 3 year campaign to raise 70 million yen for the construction of new buildings, leader training institutes, and their program of youth education. The drive has the support of an outstanding group of Japanese educational and business leaders, including many non-Christians. Among those who are actively supporting the drive are Dr. George Matsumoto, former Minister of Commerce and Industry and Mrs. Matsumoto, both active in the Episcopal Church of Japan; Dr. Shinzo Koizumi, a Councilor of the Crown Prince and former president of Keio University and Mrs. Koizumi both of whom are Christians; Dr. Koji Ushioda, president of Keio University; Dr. Koichi Shimada, president of Waseda University; Dr. Yoshinari Abe, president of the Gakushuin (Peer's School) and Mrs. Abe; Dr. Ichiro Nakayama, president of Commerce University. Dr. Michio Kozaki, moderator of the Kyodan; Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa are among the prominent Christian leaders who are backing the campaign.

Since the war, the WCTU has been as much concerned with the problem of demoralization as with the problem of alcohol. It sponsors a dormitory for street girls in Tokyo which cares for 40 girls at a time. During the 3 post war years, 1,700 prostitutes have been helped to rebuild their lives through the work of the dormitory. Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro, vice president of the WCTU is working with the government investigating committee which is studying the problem of prostitution. The committee has drafted national law to abolish prostitution and red-light districts, but this has not yet passed the legislature. An orphanage in Tokushima for 50 children, and a Student Home in Kochi are among the other projects which the WCTU sponsors. The Japan WCTU was founded in 1886 and is a self-supporting organization. The WCTU president is Mrs. Kuni Sawano.

ICU SCENE OF FIRST JAPAN RURAL RECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

The First Japan Rural Reconstruction Conference was held at ICU on April 5, 6, and 7 under the sponsorship of the Rural Welfare Research Institute, ICU and the Association for International Collaboration of

Farmers. "Some Problems of Japanese Rural Life", "Food and Rural Health" and "Rural Housing and Household Equipment" were discussed during the first general sessions, followed by Round table groups discussing specific aspects of rural problems.

Agricultural cooperatives, and farm land reform were discussed during the second day of the conference, and the third day was occupied primarily with reports from the round table groups.

Conference co-chairman were Dr. David Lindstrom and Dr. Shiroshi Nasu. Mr. S. Kobayashi was secretary, and Tadao Kimura general director. Other committee members were Dr. A.R. Moore, Mr. David Y. Takahara, Dr. E.M. Clark, Rev. T. Kimata and Dr. Toyozaburo Tanaka. Mr. H.W. Hackett was treasurer.

PRINCE MIKASA PRAISES NEW COLLOQUIAL VERSION OF BIBLE

Prince Mikasa, speaking at the Bible Society reception celebrating the publication of the colloquial New Testament, said that he has found the language in the new version of the Bible a great help to him in his studies. The Prince, although not a Christian who identified himself as a daily Bible reader, is now in the process of translating Dr. Jack Finnegan's book on archeology. He further remarked that the aim of present day scientific writing is to express any idea however difficult or profound in simple language, and he felt that the new version of the Bible met these requirements admirably.

Other congratulatory addresses were given by Mr. K. Matsuka, former speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. J.F.C. Robertson, representative of the British and Foreign Bible Societies and the American Bible Society, Mr. Nelson of the Seventh Day Adventist Church; Rev. Mitsuru Tomita, pastor of Shiba church who represented the churches in Japan. Bishop Hinsuke Yashiro presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Japan gave the prayer of thanksgiving.

The reception held on April 12 in the Protestant Christian Center was attended by over 60 representatives of churches and interested organizations.

YAMANOUCHI NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KYOBUNKWAN

The new administration of Kyobunkwan introduced Mr. Tanehide Yamanouchi as the new managing director to various groups having an interest in Kyobunkwan at a meeting held last week. Mr. Yamanouchi was for many years the head of the Kobe Branch of the 15th Bank, and has been managing director of a large commercial company. He is an elder in the Denenchofu Kyodan church. Those involved expressed approval of this step which will give Kyobunkwan the daily supervision of an able manager.

